

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

ambassadors at length arrived from Bologna, and made three alternative offers on behalf of the Pope : a truce for five years with Bernabo and the Florentines and their allies, the rebellious cities, in the meanwhile, to pay their usual tribute to the apostolic treasury; a perpetual peace with Bernabo and the Florentines, and a truce of five years with the others, who would, as in the former case, still pay their tribute ; a general peace with the whole league, the question of the rebellious towns to be referred to the arbitration of the King of Hungary, the Queen of Naples, or the Lord of Padua, at the choice of the Florentines themselves.¹ These terms were rejected by the Florentines. Their agents were busy in Bologna, where Cardinal de Noellet was suspected of being about to pawn the fortresses of the Commune to Hawkwood, as he had already done with Bagnacavallo, to pay the English. On the night of March 20, the Bolognese nobles, led by Taddeo Azzoguidi, rose against the legate, while the petty signori of the contado, with Florentine aid, entered the city with their armed retainers. Taken by surprise, the Cardinal surrendered the keys of the gates and castles, and his mercenaries made no resistance. The news caused wild exultation in Florence, for, says the Bolognese chronicler, " all that they had done to overthrow the state of the Church would have been of no avail, if Bologna had not rebelled." ² A strong force of troops with the banner of liberty, under Conrad Wertinger, was at once despatched to Bologna, and received with enthusiasm. The government of the city was put into the hands of sixteen Anziani, four for each quarter, and the Cardinal escorted to Ferrara, where the Marquis held for the Church. . Bagnacavallo and Faenza were still in the hands of the *papa*-

¹ Cf. Gherardi, *op. tit.*, p. 43 », where it is shown that there is no foundation for the usual statement that the Pope offered to leave Perugia and Citta di Castello at liberty, provided the Florentines proceeded no further and did not molest Bologna. The financial side of the whole question was of vital importance to the Holy See. From Bologna, alone, the Pope drew the annual sum of 200,000 florins. Cf. *Cronicadi Bologna*, col. 498.

* *Cronica di Bologna*, coll. 499-501.